

REMARKS

Claims 7-26 are presently in the application. The above amendments are being made to place the application in better condition for examination.

The specification was objected to because of the following informalities: The specification contains references to the claims, such as in paragraph [0002], line 2. These references have been deleted from the specification by the above amendment.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,937,734 to Stiefel et al is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is directed to a high-pressure pump for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine, the pump comprising

a rotationally driven drive shaft including a shaft portion, embodied eccentrically to the axis of rotation of the drive shaft,

a ring rotatably supported on the shaft portion,

at least one pump element having a pump piston resting at least indirectly on the ring and driven at least indirectly in a reciprocating motion by the drive shaft via the ring, and

a coating of a friction reducing paint applied to and hardened on the ring at least on the outer face of the ring facing away from the shaft portion in at least one region, the at least one region being where the at least one pump piston rests at least indirectly on the ring.

Stiefel et al discloses the basic elements of a high pressure pump for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine including drive shaft 14, rotational axis A,

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polygonal ring 28 on eccentric shaft portion 27, pump piston 35, and flat face 34 on ring 28.

It appears the examiner relies on a sliding surface 40' of slide shoe 36' to represent a coating of friction reducing paint on the ring. The sliding surface of Stiefel et al is not a coating of a lubricant paint as required, but instead a carbon layer. A carbon layer according to Stiefel et al is made by a chemical process in the steel slide shoe 36', not applied like a lubricant paint in liquid or powdered form and then hardened as required by the claims. Stiefel et al does not disclose or suggest a coating of lubricant paint, nor is it rendered obvious.

The coating of friction reducing paint as recited in claim 8 appears to be applied on the pump piston at sliding shoe 36 rather than on the flat face of the ring as required by the invention.

To support a rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), it must be shown that each element of the claim is found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. See Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp., 713 F.2d 760, 772, 218 USPQ 781, 789 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 465 U.S. 1026 (1984).

It is therefore apparent that Stiefel et al does not anticipate the coating of friction reducing paint or the structural relations of the recited elements according to the invention, which clearly differ from Stiefel et al. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13, 14, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,937,734 to Stiefel et al is respectfully requested.

Stiefel et al is relied upon by the examiner for disclosing the elements of the claims as

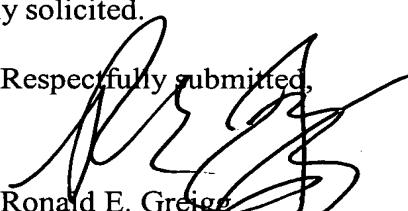
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described above for the rejection of claims 7 and 8, and for teaching the bearing sleeve supporting ring 28 comprised of metal and a “coating” on the ring made of carbon. The “coating 40’ ” is actually provided on the sliding shoe 36 rather than the ring as required. Stiefel et al also lacks an approximation of the diameter of the friction reducing paint and the ring 28 comprising carburized steel.

Regardless, the suggested teachings of Stiefel et al with regard to claims 13, 14, 19 and 20 do not make up for the features of the invention lacking as described with regard to the rejection of claims 7 and 8. The current claims are distinguished over the shortcomings of Stiefel et al. Therefore withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The examiner is thanked for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 9-12, 15-18, and 21-26. These claims have been rewritten in independent form as necessary for allowance.

Entry of the amendment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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